A New DIALOGUE BETWEEN A Burgermaster AND AN *Engliſh Gentleman.*

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LONDON,
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TO

His GRACE the

GOVERNOUR,

And to the

Sub-Governour,
Deputy-Governour,

AND

Court of Assistants,

OF THE

Royal Fishery of *England*;

The following

DIALOGUE

IS

(With Due Respect) Dedicated by

Their most Humble, and
most Obedient Servant,

James Puckle.

A New DIALOGUE BETWEEN A Burgermaster AND AN Engliſh Gentleman.

Burg. WElcome, Old Friend, *to* Amſterdam *again*; *It is many Years ſince I laſt ſaw you here*; *when did you arrive?*

Gent. Yeſterday: I came by way of *Rotterdam*, and am ſtrangely ſurpriz'd, to find both that and this *City* ſo much Enlarg'd, and every way Improv'd: From what *Source* could all this *Wealth* flow?

Burg. *From none, you may be ſure, but from the* [a] Golden Mines of our Provinces, *which have yielded us more* Treaſure *than the* Mines *of* Potoſi, *or both* Indies, *to* Spain.

[a] *So the* Dutch, *in a Proclamation* 1624, *ſtiled the* Fiſhing Trade.

Gent. The *Golden Mines* of *your Provinces*! Pray, where do they lye?

Burg. *In* Neptune's Ulvarium, *which the* Engliſh *call their* Seas.

Gent. Our famous Edgar, with no leſs than Four hundred Sail of Ships at once, vindicated his *Dominion* on our Adjacent *Seas*; and *Records* mention his Succeſſor Canutus to have laid that Ancient *Tribute*, call'd Dane-geld, for the guarding of the Seas, and the Sovereignty of them. Egbert, Althred, and Ethelfred, all ſtil'd themſelves Supream Lords and Governors of the Ocean *ſurrounding* the *Britiſh Shore*. King John [b] challeng'd the *Honour*, or rather *Duty*, of the Flag, univerſally paid Us, not barely as a *Civility*, but as a *Right*, and (*cum debita Reverentia*) acknowledging our *Title* and *Dominion*. The famous *Record* entituled *Pro Hominibus Hollandiæ*, ſhows how Obſequious your Anceſtors were [c] in *Acknowledging* not only Edward the Firſt's *Dominion* on the *Sea*, but Craving his *Protection* and *Permiſſion* to Fiſh on the *Coaſts* of *England*. And had not the Sovereignty of the Britiſh Seas in Fact been in the *Crown* of *England*, why did the [d] *Earls* of *Holland* petition Edward the Third, (and the [e] *French* our Henry the *Sixth*) for Leave to Fiſh therein? And why did *your* [f] Schippers uſe to purchaſe *Licenſe* from *Scarbrough-Caſtle* be-

[b] *Anno* 1200. [c] *Ann* 1295. [d] *Rot. Pat.* 23 Edw. 1. *Memb.* 5. [e] *Rot. Pat.* 22 Edw. 4, *Memb.* 2. [f] Cambd. *Brit.*

before they *Caſt* a Net upon the *North Coaſts* of *England?* Wherefore did Philip the Second of *Spain* [g] obtain *Licenſe* of Queen Mary for his *Subjects* to fiſh upon the *North Coaſts* of Ireland, for the term of *One* and *Twenty Years*, for which he *Yearly* paid *One thouſand* Pounds into the *Exchequer* of *Ireland*, as by the Records appear.

Burg. *Much might be in* former Ages; *but, you know, it is near* fourſcore Years *ſince we firſt began to queſtion your* Right *to the* Sovereignty *of the* Britiſh Seas: *Have you not heard, that our Great* Hugo Grotius *writ* Mare Liberum?

Gent. Yes, Sir, and that *King* James taking Notice of your *Daily* Encroachments, injoyn'd his Ambaſſador Sir *Dudley Carlton* to expoſtulate it with your *States*; as may be ſeen in Mr. *Secretary*'s *Letter* [h], in which he tells them, "That "unleſs they ſought *Leave* from *His Majeſty*, "and *acknowledg'd* his *Right*, as other Princes "*had done*, and *did*, it might well come to paſs, "that they who would needs bear *all* the *World* "before them, by their *Mare Liberum*, might "ſoon *endanger* their having neither *Terram nec* "*Solum*, *nec Rempublicam Liberam*. So much did that Wiſe *Prince* diſdain to be wrangl'd out of the Ancient *Rights* and *Regalities*, inherently *annexed* to his Crown, by the ſubtile Arguments of *Wit* and *Sophiſtry*: But that apart. If the Sea be

[g] *Anno* 1552. [h] 21 *Decemb.* 1618.

be free, as your *Lawyer* says, why do all your *Schippers* pay *Toll* to *Denmark* for passing the *Sound*, and to Swedeland, for sailing in the *Baltick*? Wherefore do the *Republic* of Genoa let to *Farm* the *Fishery* for *Thunnies* in their *Neighbouring* Seas? How is't that the *Emperor* of Russia compelleth all *Fishermen* within his Seas, to pay him *Tribute*; and that the *like* is done by the *Duke* of Medina Sidonia, in Spain, and by all *Princes* of Italy bordering on the Seas? Whereby it appears, your *Hugo* might as truly have affirm'd, That the *Roads* and *Rivers* of *Holland* are *free* for all *Travellers*, notwithwanding both *Natives* and *Foreigners* are oblig'd to pay Passage Gelt. But, to wave this Dispute, pray, Sir, how many *Labourers* have the *Dutch* in their Golden Mines, as *you* call them?

Burg. *In* Ann. 1668, *the Subjects of the* States-General *were reckon'd* [1] Two millions Four hundred thousand Souls; *whereof* (besides those imploy'd in the Inland Fishery) Four hundred and Fifty thousand *were then* maintain'd *by* Fishing *at* Sea, *and the* Traffick *depending thereon*; *since which time* we *have as much* encreas'd *the number of* Fishing-Busses *and* Doggers, *as* enlarg'd *our* Cities, *to the great Encouragement of our* Navigation, *and all* Trades *that either depend upon* it, *or the* Fishery.

Gent.

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[1] *Pol gron. & Maxim* van Holl, *pag.* 43.

Gent. What *Trades* have Dependance on the *Fiſhery?*

Burg. *Building and Rigging* Buſſes *and* Doggers *creates Employment for Shipwrights, Sawyers, Joyners, Carpenters, Caulkers, Maſt-makers, Block-makers, Pump-makers, Blackſmiths, Anchorſmiths, Hemp-dreſſers, Sailcloath-weavers, Twine-ſpinners, Rope-makers, Sail-makers, Compaſs-makers, Plummers, Ship-Chaundlers,* &c. Fitting *out* Buſſes *and* Doggers *to* Sea, *makes Work for Mariners, Net-makers, Net-Tanners, Hook-makers, Baſtaſtmen, Basket-makers, Hoop-makers, Clapboard-ſplitters, Coopers, Salt-makers, Butchers, Bakers, Brewers, Tallow-Chaundlers,* &c. *To the no ſmall* Encouragement *of all the ſeveral* Trades *and* Manufactures *that profit by the* Making *or* Vending *any of the* Materials *or* Utenſils *belonging to any of the above Thirty-four* Trades; *to which may be added, thoſe who* make *or* ſell *Culinary Wares, Bedding, Cloathing,* &c. *for* Sailors, *alſo Packers, Tollers, Dreſſers, and Couchers, to* ſort *and* make *the* Herring *Lawful Merchandiſe; likewiſe Cuſtom-houſe-Officers, Tydeſmen, and Waiters,* &c. *All which ſtill* encourage *the* Farmer, *by a continual* Conſumption *of the* Product *of the* Earth. *In a word, there is no one* Manufacture *whatſoever that giveth ſo* Univerſal *an* Employment.

Gent. Where, and at what *time* of the *Year* do you *Fiſh* upon the *Coaſts* of *Great Britain?*

Burg. *The beginning of* June *the* Herring *riſe a-*

bout

bout two leagues off Cranehead, (the outermoſt part of Bratio Sound) *where they ſtay about* —— 14 *days*

Thence go to Farry Iſland, (ſeven leagues to the Southward of Shetеland) *round which they remain about* —— —— —— 21 *days.*

Thence to Buſſin Neſſe, (about thirty leagues to the Southward of Farry-Iſland) *the* Fiſhing-place *is call'd* Buſſin Deeps, *and is twenty leagues to the* Northward *of the* Frythe, *where the* Herring *abide about* —— —— —— 14 *days.*

And in the Fiſhing Grounds *under* Chivet hills *and* Chivet-Chaſe, *about* —— —— 14 *days.*

Thence we follow them to the Doggerbank, *where they ſtay about* —— —— —— 37 *days.*

And then, about the beginning of September, *they come into* Yarmouth Seas, *where they continue about* —— —— —— 70 *days.*

From thence they fall *to the* Southward, *follow'd by ſmall* Fiſherboats, *it being dangerous for* Buſſes.

Gent. What *Quantities* of Fiſh are *yearly* taken by the *Dutch?*

Burg. *Above* [k] Six hundred Thouſand Tons.

Gent. The *Engliſh* would ſcarce believe this, if the learned Sir *John Burroughs* in his *Sovereignty* of the Britiſh Seas had not affirm'd, That the Value of the Fiſh Yearly taken by *Strangers* upon our *Coaſts* did amount to above [l] Ten Millions of Pounds Sterling. But, pray, Sir, where have you Vent for all your *Fiſh?* Burg.

[k] *L. V. Aitzma, Anno* 1653. [l] *Ann.* 1633, *pag.* 140.

Burg. *At* Quinsbrough, Ebing, Stratten, Dantzick, Swedeland, Denmark, Norway, Liefland, Riga, Revel, Narve, Ruſſia, Poland, Pruſſia, Pomerland, Lithuania, Lubeck, Stade, Statin, Hamburgh, Bremen, Embden, Cleveland, Gulickland, Cologn, Frankfort, *and all* Germany, France, Spain, Flanders, Brabant, Liege, Gelderland, Artois, Hanault, Italy, Portugal, *&c. Which* Markets *would take off treble the quantity of* Fiſh, *if we had it.*

Gent. What Returns are uſually made for your Fiſh?

Burg. Armour, Allum, Soap-aſhes, Baratees, *and other* Frankfort *Commodities*, Brandy, Bullion, Clapboard, Currants, *and other* Grocery Wares, Coin, Corn, Copper, Deal-boards, Dollars, Flax, Fruit, Fuſtins, Glaſs, Hulſhop, Hony, Hemp, Iron, Lace, Millſtones, Oils, Plate, Pitch, Prunes, Roſin, Raſhes, Steel, Silks, Sattins, Tar, Timber, Tapeſtry, Velvets, Wainſcot, War, Wines, *and other things in abundance, by Exporting of which* Commodities *to other* Markets, *our* Merchants *not only give full* Employment *to our* Ships, *ſo that they need not go in* Ballaſt *to ſeek Freight, but by the* Profit *of Outward-bound* Voyages, *are enabl'd to ſerve* other Countries *ſo cheap, as to render our* Ships *the* Common Carriers *of the* World. *Beſides, by Continual Bartering of ſuch Exports*, Holland (which the Engliſh twit with yielding only a few Hops, Madder Butter

and Cheese,) *is render'd the mighty* Storehouse *and* Empory *of all foreign* Products *and* Manufactures, *from whose infinite* Miscellany *of* Goods, *its* Inhabitants *are compleatly furnish'd with such sortible* Wares, *as enables them to* Trade *from* Port *to* Port, *without danger of glutting* Markets.

And thus, as our Fishery *hath encreas'd our* Trade *and* Navigation, *constant Employment hath still made* Foreigners *flock to us, in such* numbers, *that out of our* Multitudes *of* People, (*supplying* (from time to time) *the loss of so many* Lives *at the Change of* Climates, *Successes against the* Portugeses, *and Victories against the* Indians, *have cost us*) *we have forc'd* Treaties *of* Commerce *exclusive to* all other Nations, *built* Forts *upon* Straits *and* Passes, *that Command the* Entrances *into* Parts *of* great Traffick, *monopoliz'd all the* Spice Trade, *and mightily advanc'd towards* engrossing *the whole* Commerce *of the* East Indies.

Gent. No wonder then that notwithstanding your frequent *Wars* ever since your *Revolt* from Spain, (and that at the end of every *Dance* you have generally paid the *Musick*) there is hardly a *Begger* in your *Country*. But, now I think on't, stately *Venice*, the principal *City* of that *Republick*, containing near eight miles in circuit, was, at first, but a *Cluster* of muddy and almost inaccessible *Islands*, until a parcel of

In-

Industrious Fishermen built a few scatter'd *Cottages* on them, from whence sprang all its *Wealth* and *Grandeur*: So *stupendious* is the Benefit of Fishing! so *wonderful* the Effects of Commerce!

But if in *Holland*, which contains not above 5000000 *Acres*, all its *Bogs* and Sandy *Downs* included.

If in *Holland*, where you have no *Tree*, but what you planted; nor *Stone*, but what you brought thither.

If in *Holland*, where there is no *Minerals*, and where it is in vain to *dig* for any thing but *Turf* and *Clay*.

If in *Holland*, whose *Territories* extends upon powerful *Neighbors*, so that to defend its *Frontiers*, (and draw out a *War* in length by *Sieges*, in order to make it determine by force of *Mony* rather than of *Arms*) you are forc'd to be at vast *Expence* in *Fortifications* and standing *Troops*, to defend them even in the time of the profoundest *Peace*; for instance, *Anno* 1670, after all *Reformations*, you had *Ten* Regiments of *Horse*, and *Nineteen* of *Foot*, making together *Twenty six thousand two hundred* Men, the constant Charge of which *Forces* was 556281 *l.* Sterling *per Annum*.

If in *Holland*, where the *East* Winds coming to you over a mighty length of dry *Continent*, your extream *Cold* and *Long Winters* puts you

to the Expence of much *Fire*, *Candles*, *Food*, and *Raiment*, to great *Charge* and *Pains* in *housing* and *foddering* your *Cattle*, all which time they living on *dry* Food, yield but little *Milk*.

If in *Holland*, where the little Arable *Land* you have (lying generally upon *Sand* or *Clay* Bottoms) requireth much *Soil*; and where *Seed-time* is so short, that unless it be exactly *nick'd* no *Profit* can be reap'd, for when the Seed *rots* in the *Ground* (*as by great Rains it frequently happeneth*) the *Season* is generally past before it can be *sown* again.

If in *Holland*, that lieth so flat and open to the Seas, that the *Blossoms* of its *Trees* are most *blasted* and *spoil'd*, by cold bleak *Winds*, and their Fruit (*e're ripe*) shatter'd off by *Storms*.

If in *Holland*, whose own *Product* is scarce sufficient to supply [m] $\frac{1}{8}$ part of its *Inhabitants*, who consequently are oblig'd to *purchase* the so necessary Commodities, *Food* and *Raiment*, of neighbouring *Countries*, at the *Rates* they can get *them*.

If in *Holland*, which is so much *lower* than the *Ebbings* of the *Tides* and *Rivers*, that at vast *Expence* you are oblig'd with *Mills* to drain the *Floods* occasion'd by *Rain*.

If in *Holland*, where, notwithstanding your continual *Charge*, in repairing your *Banks* and *Dikes*,

[m] *Pol. Gron. en* Mazims van Holl. *pag.* 44.

Dikes, yet the *grating* of the *Ice* and *raging* of the Seas oft breaks them down, and by furious *Inundations* destroys *Man* and *Beast*, for several *Miles* together, and then whole *Years* are spent e're the *Land* can be mill'd *dry* again.

I say, if in *Holland*, naturally loaded with these *Misfortunes*, and all their innumerable *ill Consequences*, which, together with its unwholesome *Air*, and many other Disadvantages, renders it *Unworthy* to be *Cultivated*, or indeed *Inhabited* by *Mankind*. "Notwithstanding, you "are [n] bridl'd with hard *Laws*, terrified with "severe *Executions*, environ'd with *Foreign For-* "*ces*, and oppress'd with the most *Cruel Hard-* "*ship*, and Variety of *Taxes*, that was ever "known under any *Government*, the *People* are "grown so *numerous* and so *wealthy*, by Fishing "upon our *Northern Coasts*.

Did We in England second in *Mines*, *Rocks*, *Pits*, and *Quarries*, abounding with [o] Alabaster, [p] Antimony, [q] Arsnic, [r] Black Lead, [s] Chalk, [t] Crystal, [u] Tobactopipe Clay, [w] Coals of divers sorts; [x] Copper, [y] Fullers Earth, [z] Free-stone, [a] Iron, [b] Lapis Calaminaris, to make

[n] *Sir* William Temple's *Observations on the* United Provinces, *fol.* 130; [o] Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire; [p] Derbyshire; [q] Cornwall; [r] Cumberland; [s] Sussex; [t] Derbyshire; [u] Dorsetshire; [w] Carmarthenshire, Cumberland, Durham, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Northumberland, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Yorkshire; [x] Cornwall, Cumberland, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Yorkshire; [y] Bedfordshire, Surrey; [z] Dorsetshire; [a] Derbyshire, Durham, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire; [b] Somersetshire.

make Brass, [c] Loadstones, [d] Lead, [e] Marble, [f] Millstones, [g] Plaister, harder than that of *Paris*, Potters Clay, [h] Slate, [i] Salt, [k] Steel, [l] Tinn, [m] Whetstones, &c. upon whose Coasts are found [n] Amber, [o] Ambergrise, [p] fine transparent Pebbles, like *Diamonds*, [q] Pearls, [r] Jett, [s] abundance of Coppice stone, &c.

In England, where the cold Winds (being moisten'd by the *Vapours*, or soften'd by the *Warmth* of the Sea's *Motion* before they reach Us) are less *fierce*, and our Air is far more *mild* and *temperate* (*if not more healthy*) than any part of the *Continent* under the same *Climate*; so that there is no Necessity for Grotto's in *Summer*, or Stoves in *Winter*.

In England, whose *Hills* are like Lebanon, *Valleys* like Eden, *Springs* as Pilgath, and *Rivers* as Jordan; so abounding with Corn, Cattle, and Fowl, of *all sorts*, that tho' its *Inhabitants* are above *Seven millions Fifty five thousand*, it produceth *sufficient* Food for *treble* their number.

In England, which (besides the Rich Commodities Yearly imported from its fruitful Plantations, that are to it as so many *Mines* of *Treasure*) in

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[c] Devonshire; [d] Cardiganshire, Carmarthenshire, Derbyshire, Devonshire, Durham, Staffordshire, Yorkshire; [e] Derbyshire, Dorsetshire; [f] Anglesey, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Flintshire; [g] Nottinghamshire; [h] Cornwall; [i] Cheshire, Cumberland, Worcestershire; [k] Glocestershire; [l] Cornwall, Devonshire; [m] Derbyshire; [n] Norfolk; [o] Cornwall; [p] Cornwall, Glocestershire; [q] Cumberland; [r] Norfolk; [s] Whitestable Shallow, &c.

in the meer Native *Growth* and *Production* of its own Soil and Seas, affords Us *Trade* (*as it were*) without *Art* or *Labour*; whilst *our* Neighbours are oblig'd to force *Commerce* by *Assiduity* in *both*.

In England, whose *People* are generally of a *warm* and *elevated* Genius, of *brisk* and *solid* Parts, *apprehensive* and *subtile*, successful in finding out *New Discoveries*, and most excellent at improving *Old*.

In England, which hath the Ocean for its *Circumvalation* and *Barriour*, that fenceth us against Surprize and Ravages, exempts us from the *Charge* and *Terror* of Garrisons and Fortifications, which, together with our *Moving Castles*, continues to our Island that *Quiet*, *Liberty*, and *Security* all the rest of Europe, *more* or *less*, have lost.

I say, did We in England, *Bless'd* England! diligently apply *our selves* to the Fishing Trade, what a *Continual* Sea Harvest might We *reap*, considering that the Fishing for Herrings, Cod, Ling, Hake, Pilchards, Mackerill, Sprats, and Oysters, or *some*, or *one* of *them*, are in *season* on *some* part or *other* of our Coasts all the *Year* long.

Burg. *Just such a* Sea-Harvest *as the* Hamburgers *did*, *who*, *after five or six Years* Tryal *to imitate* Us *in the* Herring-fishing, *found*, *to their* Cost, *we still outdid* them; *and so* we *shall* you.

Gent.

Gent. The Reason why you outdid the *Hamburgers*, was, because *they* were generally *frozen up t*, somewhat *longer* than *you*. But seeing by that *start* you could outstrip *them*, surely the English need not fear the *Goal*, who (*besides what has been said*) have in Fishing many more *Advantages* of *you* than *you* had of the *Hamburgers*.

Burg. *How, Sir! the* English *Advantages of the* Dutch *in* Fishing! *Pray wherein can* they *consist? let's hear some of them.*

Gent. The Dutch have above an Hundred leagues to *sail*, before they come to the Herring Fishery, (*which is only in the Brittish Seas*) and when there, must lye at the *Mercy* of the *Winds*, for want of a *Port* to *friend*; and, in case of *unloading*, have *as far* back again; which takes up a *great deal* of their *Time*, hinders *Business*, and endangers the Loss of their *Markets*: Whereas, in England, We have the Fish upon our own *Coast*, so near our Shores, that in case of *Storm*, *unloading*, taking in of *Provisions*, or the like, it is but *four* or *five* hours *Work*, (*and most commonly not so much*) to recover a *Harbour*, and without *loss* of *time*, to put to Sea again, the Work of *Unloading*, *Repacking*, and sending our Fish away to the next *Market*, still going on in *all* Weathers.

Burg.

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[1] *Lex Mercat.* fol. 171.

Burg. *Well, and have not the* Dutch Dogger-boats, *to take off their* Fish *at* Sea, *and* refurnish *their* Fishermen *with* Cask, *and other Neceſſaries?*

Gent. Yes, Sir, and *You* have the *Charge* and *Riſque* of thoſe *Doggerboats* too (*both which the Engliſh ſave*), yet, after all, if it happens to be a *rowling Sea*, the *Dutch* muſt *lye* and *wait* for a *Calm*.

Burg. *Well, Sir, proceed.*

Gent. England hath many *convenient Tide-haven-Ports*, as at Hull, Hartwich, and Holy-Iſland, to the *Northward* of *London*, and Dover, Rye, Portſmouth, Southampton, Cowes, Weymouth, Dartmouth, Cattwater, Hamoz, Fowey, Falmouth, Hilford, Scilly, and Milford, *Weſtward*, where, at *low Water*, all of *them* are either *ſmall Chingle*, or *hard Sand*, ſo that our Ships and Veſſels may eaſily *haul aſhore*, and *waſh* and *tallow* at pleaſure. Nor are *Creeks* and commodious *Places* wanting, to *lodge* our *Veſſels* ſafe when not *imploy'd*, ſo as to prevent *wear* of Cables, *charge* of Watching, *danger* of Fire, *&c.*

Burg. *What more?*

Gent. The *Shores* of England are *bold*, *Coaſts* high Land, eaſily diſcover'd; and ſeveral of our *Cape Lands* (*oppoſite to* France *and* Holland) make Eddy Bays, whoſe depth of Water is *mean*, as *ſix, eight, ten*, or *twelve* fathom. The *Tides* (*on our Coaſts*) are *ſmall*, Anchor-hold generally *ſtiff Clay, Chalk*, or *hard Gravel*, ſo that we need not

dread Winter Storms. Besides, the Advantage that *we* have of lying in a moderate *Climate*, and in the very *Center* of the *Trade* of Europe, affords us *Opportunity* of sending to *Foreign Parts*, from divers of our *Ports*, at all Seasons of the *Year*: Whereas the Coasts of Holland (*as hath been said*) are *extream low*, (*consequently subject to be hazy and foggy*) have many *Shoals* and *Sands*, some of which lye so *far off* at Sea, that many times *Ships* are *stranded* before they *see* Land. Its *Ports* are *bad*, and oft *choaked* up with Quicklands, which makes it *dangerous* for *great Ships* to approach *them*. Its *Havens* are Yearly frozen up two or three Months together, and a North-West Wind (*usually blowing the greatest part of the Year*) makes *Holland* a Lee and *England* a Weather Shore; so that many times whilst the *Dutch* are *Windbound*, or *frozen up* at *home*, We can *supply* the *Markets abroad*.

Burg. *Well, Sir, what next?*

Gent. Timber you have none, but what you are forc'd to buy in *Germany*; whereas We have sufficient quantities of *Oak* growing in England, the best upon *Earth* for *Shipping*; and in many places of Ireland much stately *Timber now* lies wasting and decaying, for want of *Ways* being made to some *Rivers*, which done, We can have *Timber* two thirds cheaper than *you*.

For

For inſtance; the great *Wood* in the County of *Wexford*, wherein is *Timber* enough to build ſeveral thouſand of Herring-Buſſes; and *two* or *three thouſand* Pounds would make a Way for it to the River *Slane*.

Iron *Holland* produceth not, *your Boltrods* are drawn out in *Germany*; whereas with the *Offal* of the *Timber* us'd in building *Buſſes*, and *Forreſt of Dean-cinders* and *Iron-ſtone*, we can make vaſt quantities of moſt excellent Iron in *Bar*, at about *Nine*, and drawn out for *Rods* at about *Eleven* pounds *per Ton*; which is ſcarce *two thirds* of what *you* pay for *yours*.

Nor need the Company to divert *any* part of their *Stock* from the Fiſhery, or to be at *Expence* in *making ways*, or *cleanſing Rivers*, to come at *Timber*, or for ſetting up *Iron-works*, &c. No, the *Proprietors* of the *Lands* that produce ſuch *Materials*, by the Company's great *Demands*, being *certain* of a Market, will from *thence* receive ſufficient *Encouragement* to improve their *Eſtates* by ſuch Undertakings.

Hemp you have from the *Eaſt Countries*, but now We have got the right way of *Retting* the *Hemp* England produceth; it appears in *Goodneſs* ſecond to none; nor can ſufficient quantities be wanting, ſince by *Experience* it is *found*, that ſuch Marſh-lands as formerly would not yield us *forty Shillings* an Acre, by being laid under *Hemp*, is at preſent improv'd to *five Pounds*.

Also we have an *Art* to dress *Hemp* with a Mill, and the best Method of sorting *it* for fine Twine, small Cord, and Cables, and for preparing the *coarsest* part for Oakum and Match; so that now those Commodities will stand Us in less than they do *you*.

Again: Tho' at present *we* have *Masts*, and some *Stores* from the East Countries, yet do we not (*as you*) depend solely upon them: *No*, in case of *exaction* or *rupture*, We can be *supply'd* from our own American *Plantations*, which so *abound* with Naval Stores, that Merchants already *build* Ships there, near a *fourth* part *cheaper* than in Europe.

Burg. *Have* you *any more Advantages of* us?

Gent. Near the Isle of Foudray in Lancashire, and in several *places* along the *Shore* of Wales, *We* can catch Herrings without being at the *Charge* of Busses; for, by only setting *Nets* on the *Sands*, at *low Water*, great quantities of Fish are taken next *Tide* of *ebb*, and *Provisions* and *Labour* are so *cheap* in those *parts*, that both *there*, and in many *parts* of Wales, our Herrings will not stand us in *half* so much as *yours*.

Besides, on the *Coasts* of Wales is abundance of *Ashen Wood*, which as far excels all other for *drying* Herrings, as its Bark doth for *tanning Nets*. Nor do We in England (*as you*) want *Willow Hoops* from *Hamburgh*.

Burg.

Burg. *Those* Herrings *on the Coast of* Lancaster *(coming newly out of the* Ocean*) are so lat, they will not take* Salt, *consequently, are apt to* Reast, *&c.*

Gent. The Pilchards also (which so seasonably and constantly visit our *Coasts* of *Cornwall*) are so *fat*, they will not take Salt 'till pressed, and then (to the great encouragement of Curriers, Soap-boylers, &c.) yield store of Oyl, after which *they* will take *Salt* kindly. Now cure *fat* Herrings after the same *manner*, and they'l produce *double Profit*.

Burg. *How came this* Method *not to be sooner discover'd?*

Gent. *Providence* reserves to every Age something *new*: 'tis not long since those vast Salt-Rocks in *Cheshire* (*sufficient to supply all* Europe) have been discover'd, and *this* our Salt is of so *noble* a *quality*, that it will remove all those *Mischiefs* which, at present, in the *Fishery*, have relation to *Salt*. We likewise see great quantities of Pitch now made of a *Stone* abounding in Shropshire, which (*upon tryal*) is found of such an excellent *Nature*, that *Heat* only causeth it to penetrate *deeper* into *Plank*, and *Cold* cannot make it crackle off. Both which, Salt and Pitch, are yet other *Advantages Holland* wanteth.

Burg.

Burg. *Well, I suppose* you *have now told all* your Advantages.

Gent. Excuse me, Sir, we have as great *Advantage* of you in *fishing* for Cod and Hake, taking of Pilchard, *&c.* as we have in *catching* Herrings, were it convenient as *yet* to *discover* them.

Burg. *Notwithstanding all the* Advantages *you speak of, your* chief *Fishing* Towns, Yarmouth and Laystoff, *are beholden either to* us *at* Enckhuysen, *or to the* French *at* Diep, *for selling them* Nets.

Gent. Before the present War, they us'd to buy Sail-cloth of *you* too, but that, now made at *Fulham* by Mr. *Culliford* and Mr. *Evernden*, is brought to *equal* Perfection with *your* best *Holland's* Duck; as appear'd by that served into *His* Majesty's *Stores*. And for Nets, those *Towns* you mention have themselves made all they *used* this *two* Years last past. And who knows, but that our *Artisans*, universally allow'd the *best* upon Earth for *Improvements*, may, in *few* years, as far excell *yours* in these things, as *they* already exceed *you* in *your* Course Thread, and *outdo* the *Germans* in Fine Steel works, which, tho' they *first* invented, yet now *we* make and sell to them? And 'tis observable, that where Englishmen find constant Imployment, (*as they'l have in the Fishery*) they work *harder* and *cheaper* (*every thing consider'd*) than *any* in Europe; Witness

ness the Labourers in our *Mines*, also our Artificers at *Birmingham*. But, Sir, since you talk of being *beholden*, I think you are *beholden* to us for telling you the Lampeys, wherewith you *bait* for North-Sea Cod, else you might —— to whistle for 'em.

Burg. *Well, tho' you* excel us, *and indeed all the Northern Parts*, in good Products *and* rich Growths *for* Manufacture, *we* exceed you *in all gainful* Manufacturing Arts; *and all the* Defects *and* Difficulties *of our* Country *and* Coasts *are* sufficiently *made up by our* good Laws, *and the* great Care, *and* prudent Conduct *of our* Magistrates, *who court* Trade *as a rich* Mistress, *and spare no* Cost *nor* Pains *to attain* her.

Gent. As how, I pray, Sir?

Burg. *They* tolerate Liberty of Conscience, register Estates, *and* grant Freedoms *of Our* Cities *for* little *or* no Charge; *the taking of a* House *in a* Town *entitles a* Man *to a* Liberty *of following his* Calling, *whereby all such who being persecuted for* Religion, *or through* Discontent *leave their* Native Countries, *are* invited *and* encourag'd *to* come *and* settle *with us.*

Gent. Doth *Holland* receive *any Advantage* from *their* Company?

Burg. Yes, doubtless; *for the* Rich *bring their* Estates *with* 'em, *or have the same convey'd after* 'em, *and our* Interest *being* low, Strangers *when here, find* Trade *their best way to improve*

their

their Estates, *and knowing the* Goods *wanted in their own Countries, and the* Commodities *wherewith* they *abound, quickly* learn *what* is *in* Demand *with us, and are thereby* invited *to* Traffick *and* Commerce. *And as for* Poor People, *few or none* Venture *to* Travel *out of their* Native Countries, *who are not* Masters *of some* Art *or* Trade. *It was a* Cornish Miner [a] *that discover'd the* Tin Mines *in* Saxony, *and it is* Foreign Artisans *and* Handicrafts men *that daily* improve *and* augment *our* Manufactures, *and have* taught us *so many several* sorts *of* Trades *and useful* Mills, Engines, *and* Inventions *for dispatching* Work.

Gent. By what *other* Methods do you *encourage* Trade?

Burg. *By laying* small *Customs upon* Unmanufactur'd *Commodities, such as* Raw Silk, Oyl, &c. *when* imported, *and also upon all our* own exported Manufactures, *and* loading *with heavy* Duties *the* Manufactures *of other* Countries.

Gent. Cannot *these* and the *like* Methods be also *practis'd* in England?

Burg. *No, not in any other* Country, *that will not suffer a* General Naturalization, *or something like it.*

Gent. Well, but now His *Majesty* has establish'd a Council of Trade, by whose great

Care

[a] Heylin's *Geography.*

Care and *Industry*, it's hoped, whatever *clogs* and *obstructs* our Trade or Manufactures will be *discover'd*, and Matters so effectually *Recommended* to the Parliament, that all *Impediments* to *Navigation* and *Commerce* will be *remov'd*.

Burg. *Do you not remember the* Parliament *of* England *prohibited* Irish Cattle, *to keep up* Rents *in* England? *Now* catching *much* Fish *will make* it *so* cheap, *as to* hinder *the* Consumption *of* Flesh, *and cause* Rents *to* fall: *How then can you* hope *for* Success?

Gent. By the *Parliament* of *England*, (in the *Preamble* of an Act passed in the 14 *Car.* 2, *cap.* 28) it is declar'd, That **the Publick Honour, Wealth, and Safety of this Realm, as well in the maintenance of Trade and support of Navigation, as in many other respects, doth in an high degree depend upon the Improvement and Encouragement of the Fishery,** &c. And consequently *they* will never be wanting in giving of it just Encouragement.

Besides, *catching* Fish will not, as *you* imagin, *fall* the *Price* of Rents; for,

First, the *Profits* of Lands do not *wholly* consist Breeding: The Fishery will cause a great *expence* of Butter, and make *Farmers* run much upon *Dairies*. Now tho', in *Breeding*, all the *Labour*, *Hazards of Rearing*, *hard Winters*, &c. are the

Farmer's, the *greatest Profits* still accrue to the *Drover*, *Butcher*, &c. But in Dairies the good *Housewife* and her *Maids* do all the *Work*, and the Farmer receives all the *Profit* to himself, and so with *Ease* can *pay* his Landlord.

Next, the Royal Fishery will give *Work* to many *Thousands* of *both Sexes*, who, tho' now (*through Poverty*) *live* only upon *Bread*, *Water*, *Pulse*, *Roots*, and the like, yet when *they* have the *Rewards* of their *Labours* in their Hands, will not *punish* their *Carcasses* to *spare* their *Purses*, but turn House-keepers, *drink* strong Beer, and *eat* Roast Beef, &c.

However, *supposing*, for *Arguments sake*, Meat should not *remain* at a very *excessive* Rate, yet where a *greater* Consumption causeth a *quick* Market, tho' at a *midling* Price (*if the Proverb be true*) —— Light Gains will make a heavy Purse.

Besides, are *Provisions* cheaper? there needs *less* Taxes in *time* of War, a *less* Rate will maintain the *Poor*, House keeping will be *less* chargeable, the Labourer will require *less* Hire, and the Artisan afford his *Work* cheaper, which must *fall* the *price* of all Products and Manufactures, consequently *enlarge* our *Exports*, and *Expence* at *home*. Now, if a Penny sav'd be a Penny got, where's the hurt the Fishery will do the Landed Men?

More-

Moreover, the *vast* quantities of Fish the *Company* will Take and Export, (without expence of *Foreign Commodities*) will produce the *Nation* (*or at least prevent the Export of*) so much Bullion, and in proportion *raise* the *Rents* and *Price* of Lands; for, supposing there was only *Five hundred Pounds* Sterling in all England, an Ox could hardly be worth a Penny, nor the *Money*-Rent of all England be *Five hundred Pounds per Annum*.

Gold or *Silver* Mines England hath none, and (*in time of Peace*) no way to get Bullion from *other* Countries, than by *foreign Trade*, to which nothing can more *conduce* than cheap Fishing, and the *cheap* Working and Manufacturing the *Commodities* which compose the *Exports* of *our* Kingdom, and that is not to be *effected*, except *Labour* be *cheap*, which it can *never* be where *Provisions* are *dear*. Now the *cheaper* we can afford a *Commodity*, the more *Vent* we shall have for *it*, and *much Vent* will cause *many* Workmen, and when the *Wheel* is set a going, Trade begets Trade, as Fire begets Fire, and still the more Trade encreaseth, the more will *Industrious People*, from all parts, flock to *us*; and *Crowds* will not only *force* cheap Labour, Ingenuity, and Parsimony, but fill *our* Houses, now untenanted, *enclose* our Wasts, *improve* our Lands, *encrease* our Manufactures, and *enlarge* our Bounds far beyond the whole *Expence* of our *Nation*,

tion, and thereby (*in proportion*) *add* to its *Wealth* and *Treasure*; for *Merchants* exporting the *Surplus*, will, in *Returns*, bring back Gold, Silver, and other *valuable* Commodities, which in *England* (*that hath Property*) by *Succession* of *Contracts*, will diffuse amongst its *Inhabitants*, whose Number will still encrease with our *Riches*, and as *they* augment, will more and more *improve* our *Lands*, by encreasing the *Vent* of our *Product* and *Manufactures*, even in the *very* Expence of *them* that are *added*, one *Man* that *Works* having perhaps *five* or *six* that only *eat* and *wear*. And thus, as the *Consumption* of the *native Product*, and the *number* of the Persons made *Rich* by their *Labour* and *Industry* encrease, and the *Choice* of Tenants and Chapmen are enlarg'd, a *kind* of Competition amongst them, *must* and *will* make Rents, and Land, advance in *proportion*: Witness *Holland*, and such of our Lands in *all* Countries as *lye* near *great* and *populous* Corporations.

Burg. Well, it is but time *lost to* discourse *on this Subject*; *the* English *will never trouble* themselves *further*, *than to* catch *and* hang *a few* Herrings *at* Yarmouth *and* Layston.

Gent. Excuse me, Sir, a Royal Fishery is now on foot in England, and the Undertaking meets with such *general* Applause, that there is *scarce* Room left to *doubt* Success.

Burg.

Burg. *Do they go upon the foot of the* Charter *granted the 29th of* Charles *the second?*

Gent. Yes, Sir; and what then?

Burg. *Why then your* Company *will* quickly *come to nothing.*

Gent. Why so, Sir?

Burg. *Because there was formerly Ten thousand Pounds advanced by that* Corporation; *but as soon as* they *fell to* work, *they lost* Stock *and* Block.

Gent. That's no *infallible* Rule why the Company should do *so* now, for the *Loss* you mention did not proceed from the *Impracticableness* or *Unprofitableness* of the *Undertaking*; on the contrary, one of their *larger* Doggers, in a *three* Weeks Voyage, brought them in *Thirty thousand* Cod, and their *small Craft* took in proportion.

The Company's bad *Fortune* was occasion'd *meerly* by the *ill* Juncture of *Affairs* in Europe; for the Dutch and Spaniards being engag'd in a *War* with France, the *French* seiz'd the *Vessels* of the Company, (*being some or most of them* Dutch *built and mann'd*) which *Loss*, by reason the *Company's* Stock was far too *small* for so *great* an *Undertaking*, (*at that time*) put a *stop* to their *further* Proceedings, however *Merchants* must not give over all *Trade*, because some Ships have been lost (bought Wit is best). The bringing of the New-River Water to *London*

don, that now turns to such *prodigious* Advantage, was not *atchieved* upon Sir *Hugh Middleton's* first Attempt. The *Company* having *throughly* weigh'd and consider'd *former* Inconveniences and Impediments, and how to manage their *Trade* with such *Order* and *Exactness*, as to avoid *them* for the future, will *now* set to work with a *Stock* of *Three hundred Thousand Pounds*, about *Two hundred Thousand Pounds* whereof are already subscribed.

Burg. *It's strange you should begin such an Undertaking at a time when the* Loss *upon your* Old Coin, *and the* Charge *of the* War *hath made* Mony *so scarce.*

Gent. The *greater* the *Dearth*, the more *Care* should be had to *seed* the *Ground*, lest the *Famin* encrease. The more our Wealth hath been *exhausted*, the *greater* Reason We have to lay hold on the Fishery, which (*as hath been said*) so much inricheth *Holland*, and, by *Parity* of *Reason*, must abundantly *add* to *our Treasure.*

Burg. *Well*, suppose *you raise* Mony; we *build cheaper than* you, *and sail with* fewer *Hands than* you, *consequently can afford* cheaper Freight, *and undersell* you.

Gent. Not so *fast*, good Sir; the *Dutch* build *slighter* (if you call that *Cheaper*) than the *English*; but as to your *sailing* with *fewer* Hands, none *envies* you that *Happiness*, for by *Undermanning* you Yearly *lose* far more Ships and Mens Lives

(in

(*in proportion to* Tonnage *and number of* Mariners) than the English, which is the *Reason* our *Ships* are *more* in request, and yield *better* Freight: Where then *lies* the *Odds?* which were there any, yet would be only in Merchant Ships, to carry our Fish to Markets; Busses and Fishing-boats carry more *Men* to *catch Fish* than are needful to sail them; and were not this true, since in *building* for *strength*, *stowage*, or *sailing*, English *Shipwrights* know no Master, surely the Company might easily cause *their* Ships to be Built and Mann'd after the *Flemish fashion*, as well as the Dutch.

Burg. Build *how you list*, *All will not do*, *for* England *hath many* Wasts, *and* much *unimprov'd* Lands, *by which it's* plain *you want* Hands *to carry on such a* Work.

Gent. I perceive *you* are *ignorant* of what *great* Improvements have been made in *England* this last *Sixty* Years, upon *breaking* up and *enclosing* of Wasts, Forests, and Parks, and *draining* of Fens, and all *those* places *inhabited* and *furnish'd* with *Husbandry*, &c. yet should we have any *want* of *Hands*, it's certain a *full* Imployment of those we have, is the *best* and *readiest* way to *get* more; for such as our Imployment is, so many will our People be. But considering of what a *happy* and *inviting* Nature the *easie* Business of the Fishery is, were *our* Stock much bigger than *propos'd*, doubtless we need

not

not fear *want* of *Hands*; for, beſides *voluntary* Charity, our Poors Rate, in the latter end of King Charles's Reign, came to " Six hundred Sixty-five thouſand Three hundred Sixty-two Pounds Sterling *per Annum*: And we have *Reaſon* to believe it *now* much *higher*, whereby it is *evident* what vaſt Numbers of Beggars and Idle Perſons live upon the *Publick*, without return of *Labour* for their *Bread*, moſt or all of which might find *Imployment* in the Fiſhery, which affords *work* to each *Member* of a *Family*; Boys and Girls may do the *Work* of *ſpinning Twine*, the Lame, the Weak, the Aged of *both* Sexes may ſit *warm* and *dry*, and earn their *Livelihoods* by braiding *Netts*, making *Norſels*, cutting *Corks*, picking *Oakum*, &c. even the very Blind may *earn* their *Bread* by *turning* Wheels.

Now, as a *conſtant* Imployment of ſuch *Poor* will be a continual *Eaſe* and *Comfort* to *them*, by *amuſing* and *diverting* them from *thinking* on their *Poverty* and other *Miſery*, ſo will it *aleviate* the Nation's *Burthen*, and, in *ſome* meaſure, be a Repeopling of us too, by *adding* ſo many loſt Hands to the Service of the *Publick*.

Burg. *The* Boys, Girls, Blind, Lame, and Aged Poor *you ſpeak of*, *tho' they* ſpin Twine, braid Netts, *&c. cannot* catch Fiſh, *it is* Mariners you *want*.

Gent.

" *Eſſay upon Ways and Means*, fol. 77.

Gent. 'Tis confeſs'd, that want of Seamen enough (*in time of War*) at *once* to *Man* our Navy, and *Navigate* our Merchantmen and Colliers, is detrimental to England more than the *Charge* of the *War*; conſequently We are the more *indiſpenſably* bound to *encourage* the Fiſhery, for Men of War and Merchantmen require many Seamen, and breed *few*, the *great* and *beſt* Nurſery of Seamen is the Fiſhery, where *each* Buſs brings up (*it may be*) *ſix*, *eight*, or *ten* new Men every *Year*. Nor is their *Value* inferiour to their *Number*; many *brave* Officers have been *train'd up* in that *School*, and the Fiſhermens Buſineſs *lying* where *our* Ships Danger lies, makes *them* know how the *Sands* ſhift, and *where* the *Rocks* and *Shelves* are, *conſequently* moſt *able* Coaſters, and *admirable* Pilots.

But, to Anſwer your *Objection*, We need not fear *want* of *Hands* in the Fiſhery, for a *Treaty* of *Peace* is on *foot*, and when that's concluded, how *glad* will Souldiers be to *find* in the Fiſhery *full* Imployment? the *want* whereof formerly made *many*, when *disbanded*, *leave* the *Kingdom*, or *take* the *Road*.

Beſides, *numbers* of French Proteſtants, that *fled* from *Diep* and the *Coaſts* of *Normandy*, &c. bred up to the *Buſineſs* of the Fiſhery from their *Cradles*, will *rejoyce* at Work, and when *they* find *full* Imployment in England, *invite* over *multitudes* of *their* Friends and Acquaintance,

who (if *setled* in our *decay'd* Fishing *Towns*) will as *certainly* make them *flourish*, as the *Burgundian* Refugees, planted by Q. *Elizabeth* [x] at *Norwich*, *Canterbury*, and *Colchester*, raised them (*then so poor*) Cities to such *great* Trade, Riches, and Plenty.

Again; when our Fleet is laid up, Hands cannot be wanting, for the many *Thousand* English, Scotch, and Irish Mariners, who *Yearly* used to Fish for *you*, will not *seek* Imployment *abroad*, when they *find* Work *ready* at *home*.

Burg. *Your Men are* dainty Chap's, *and* (when a Fishing) *will not* fare *like* Ours.

Gent. They need not, *Meat* and *Drink* in Ireland, and in many parts of England, are above as *cheap again* as in Holland, which produceth no other *Provisions* (*for Traffick*) than Butter and Cheese, and *those* too are *cheaper* with *us* than with *you*; and 'tis observ'd, that *whatever* the Dutch Fishermen save by *eating* of Grout, *they* drink (*more than* Turfs) in Brandy.

Burg. Fishing *is a* Work *for which the* English *are* unfit, *and requires such* Skilful, Robust, *and* Industrious Seamen, *as* no *Country* breeds *but* Holland.

Gent. Why then do *you* covet to *employ* so many *English* and *Scotch Mariners?*

Your learned *Keckerman* says, *Omnibus bodie* gen-

[x] *Anno* 1568.

gentibus Navigandi Industria & Peritia superiores esse Anglos. 'Tis certain *our* Mariners run *daily* more *Hazard*, and suffer greater *Hardships* in *other* Voyages than in Fishing; and for *hard Labour*, the *working* of a Mine is incomparably *beyond* that of a Buss: Moreover, our *Natives*, after *twelve hours* hard Work, will go in the *Evening* to Foot-ball, Stool-ball, Cricket, Prison-base, Wrestling, Cudgel-playing, or some such *Vehement* Exercise, for their *Recreation*: And as to their Genius, it is *remarkable*, that such Lads and Country fellows as (at *Yarmouth*, *Leystoffe*, &c.) are once hir'd into the *Fishing Trade*, and come to *feed* on the Fish they Catch, (*which being fresh taken, is a Treat beyond what is to be had on Shore*) it *improves* them at such a *rate*, that of *pitiful Weaklings* at *Land*, they come to be hardy, stout, and healthful *Persons*, and, *upon* tryal, *find* it so much to *their* liking, that not *One* in *Twenty* but take to Sea for *good-an-all*.

Burg. *Our* Herrings *are* brighter *and* better *than Yours*.

Gent. Fishing *far* from *home*, you are forc'd to *Gipp* and *Salt* your *Herrings* on board; and your *Clap-board* being *several Months* in floating down the *Rhine* from *Germany*, the *Water* draws out its Sap. Now, if We *soak* the corrosive Sap, (which *discolours* our Fish) out of *our* Clap-boards, and *Gipp* and *Salt* our Herrings also, as

ſoon as *we* catch *them*, they will be *every whit* as *bright* and as *firm* as yours.

Burg. *The* Dutch *are* already *ſetled in the* Fiſhing Trade.

Gent. The *King* of *Portugal* having [1] diſcover'd the *Paſſage* to the *Eaſt Indies* by the *Cape* of *Good Hope*, and ſo *diverted* the *Courſe* of *Trade* driven by the Venetians, from *Alexandria* and the *Red Sea*, to *his* Port of *Lisbon*, kept *Factors* at *Antwerp*, to vend there his *Indian* Commodities, which drew ſeveral *Merchants* from *divers* Parts, to *reſide* there, and made the *Trade* of that pleaſant-ſeated *City* great and eminent: But when the *Dutch* found alſo the *Way* to the *Indies* [2], and began to Rival *Portugal* in that *Trade*, the *Merchants* of *Antwerp* immediately *foreſeeing* they ſhould be *outdone*, reſolving not to *loſe* the Advantage of their *Skill* in *Indian* Commodities, removed to *Amſterdam*, and *there* improved their own *Eſtates*, but left *Antwerp* bare.

Trade often (*like the Sea, its Eliment*) *ebbs* and *flows* from *one* place to *another*. Not *many* Years *ſince*, We imported *Silk Stockings* from the *Levant*, yet now the *Tide* is *turn'd*, and We ſend *them* thither.

Burg. *We have* Intereſt *at* Three, *whereas you*

[1] *Anno* 1500. [2] *Anno* 1602.

you pay Six per Cent. *which is such a* Load *upon* Trade, *that tho'* your Sugar-Refiners *can* hardly *live*, ours (*notwithstanding they buy their* Muscovado's *in* England) *get* great *Estates in* little Time.

Gent. The Fishing Trade made Money plentiful (*and that brought down Interest*) in Holland; and *so*, by *degrees*, *it* will with *Us*. In the interim *know*, the Overseers of the Poor in England are impower'd [a] to put *Children* Apprentice, which *doubtless* (*upon Request*) they will *gladly* do to the Company, to *learn One* of the *Thirty-four Trades* that relates to the Fishery.

Now *this* being altogether *impracticable* in Holland, where *you* have no such *Numbers* of Poor, will much *overpoise* the *present* Advantage of *your* low Interest.

For allowing (*as is usually reckoned*) the *Charge* of *Fishing* consists in $\frac{1}{3}$ in the *Buss* and *Rigging*, $\frac{1}{3}$ in *Victuals*, *Nets*, &c. and $\frac{1}{3}$ in *Mens Wages*, and the *whole* to be *Nine hundred Pounds*.

If the Company the *first* Year have but $\frac{1}{3}$ of each *Busses* Crew their *own* Apprentices, bating what is paid *more* to the *Officers*, till their *own* Servants are *fit* to Command, it will *save* the Company *One hundred* of the said *Nine hundred Pounds*; and supposing that the *next* Year the Company should have *one* half of each *Busses* Crew their

own

[a] 43 Eliz. 2.

own Servants, it would then ſave *them One hundred and Fifty* of the ſaid *Nine hundred Pounds*; and ſo, by this *Advantage* only, their Fiſh would ſtand *them* the *firſt* Year in about *Ten*, and the *next* in about *Fifteen per Cent. leſs* than the *Dutch* (*that pay Wages to all*): And ſo, *proportionably* to the *number* of their *Apprentices*, their *Profits* will *increaſe*.

And the Company's Apprentices *being* in Fiſhing Seaſons employ'd at Sea, and at *other* times *working* on *Shore* at *that* of the ſaid *thirty-four* Trades to which *they* were *reſpectively* bound, when their *Times* are out, will *each* of *them* be *able* to get a Livelihood either at *Sea* or *Land*. And if, to render them *more* capable of ſerving *our* Country, the *Company* ſhall, at *four* a *Clock* each *Saturday* in the *Afternoon*, cauſe them (*when aſhore*) to *muſter* and *exerciſe* (*altho' only with Staves*) and for *diverſion* to *play* at *Cudgels*, or *fence*, and *Reward* the *Conqueror* with *Liberty* of *wearing* a ſmall Ribbon, whoſe different colours of *Red*, *Blue*, &c. ſhould *diſtinguiſh* them to be Captains, Lieutenants, &c. and ſhould cauſe *them* to be *call'd* and *reſpected* as *ſuch* by the *reſt* of their *fellow*-Servants, (*till next Weeks Tryal of Skill*) how ſoon would *Emulation* beget *Addreſs*, and what a *Treaſure* and *Strength* to England would each *thouſand* of ſuch Sea-Militia be, *always* ready for *Service*, both by Sea and Land, and yet *no* Charge to the Nation till *actually* in *it*!

Burg.

Burg. *It is too* great *an* Undertaking.

Gent. The Wallons were *long* ſetled in the Manufacture of our Wool, yet in *Edward the third's* time, when We ſet about it *our ſelves* in *good earneſt*, We effectually *fixed* that *Rich Staple* in England. The Dutch, you know, for *many* Years after, had the Dreſſing and Dying our Woolen Manufactures; but when We undertook the Work, they were *ſoon* deprived of that *Advantage*; which ſo *great* Benefits *our* Country would have *yet* wanted, had not *any* ſet about *them*, becauſe *all* had thought *them* too *big* to be *accompliſh'd*.

Burg. *After* all *can be ſaid*, Projects *in* England *have* (of late) *prov'd* very *unſucceſsful*.

Gent. What tho' *ſome* Men have *run* upon *wild* Notions, and *catching* at *Shadows* loſt their *Subſtance*, that's no Objection againſt the ROYAL FISHERY, which is a Certainty; for the Sea yields her Fiſh, as well as the Earth her Fruit, in due Seaſon; and Neptune hath been far more bountiful to *you* than Ceres.

Burg. *We have a ſort of a* Prophecy *among ſt* us, *That* as Antwerp loſt its Commerce as ſoon as its Townhouſe was finiſh'd, ſo the Trade of Amſterdam would begin to decay as ſoon as our Stadthuys was compleated. *It's now* very *near the* Point *of being* ſo; *and if* any *thing* fulfill *that* Prophecy, *I* fancy *'twill be* your Fiſhery: *However, I know the* worſt *on't*; *as* my Grandfather-

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left Antwerp *when the* Dutch *fell into the* East India Trade, *if your* Fishery *succeed*, 'tis *but* my *removing to* London.

Gent. I thought as much; for, Where Trade goes, Merchants will quickly follow.

CONCLUSION.

BY the aforegoing Discourse you see how *easily* the *Just* Right and Title *Providence* hath given His Most Sacred *Majesty* to the Soveraignty of the British Seas may be *Asserted* and *Maintain'd*, and *that* without *Quarreling* with our Neighbours; for, by *only* a *Frugal* and *Industrious* Management of *Affairs*, We shall quickly become sole Masters of the Fishing Trade:

Then *surely* ENGLISHMEN will not *longer* say, with Solomon's *Slothful*, ☞ * *There's a Lion in the Way.*

* *Prov.* 26.13.

J. P.